

# MONTANA FISH WILDLIFE & PARKS

## MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

**NOTE:** Another five pages of checklist and letters developed for HB495 by the Parks Division are not attached to this document. The Parks Division and each Regional Parks Manager has the HB495 information.

The file is H:\user\fwps\share\forms\ecklist. It is a Word document. If you need it as a WordPerfect 6.1 document, it is available from the Administration & Finance Support Unit at phone (406) 444-4786.

Following is the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks checklist for Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Environmental Assessments (EA's). It can also be used for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion and Environmental Assessment documents for Federal Aid in Wildlife (P-R) and Sport Fish (W-B) Restoration projects.

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~~C:\Master Headwaters EA File\Draft Headwaters Improvements 2002.DOC~~

August 24, 1999

# Draft Environmental Assessment

## Missouri Headwaters State Park Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Enhancement Project

July 29, 2002~~July 26, 2002~~



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

- \* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- \*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- \*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- \*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

# MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

## PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action

MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK LEWIS AND CLARK BICENTENNIAL CAPITAL AND INTERPRETIVE IMPROVEMENTS.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action

FWP derives the authority for the proposed action from enabling legislation passed by the 2001 Montana Legislature in the form of SENATE BILL NO. 286.

3. Name of Project

Missouri Headwaters State Park Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Enhancement Project

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Bozeman, MT 59718

406-994-4042

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: September 2002.

Estimated Completion Date: End of October 2002.

Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 60%

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)

**Missouri Headwater State Park, Gallatin County, Range 2E., Township 2N.**

7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

Acres		Acres	
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain .....	_____
residential .....	_____		
industrial .....	_____	(e) Productive:	
		irrigated cropland .....	_____
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation .....	<u>2 to 3</u>	dry cropland .....	_____
		forestry .....	_____
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas .....	_____	rangeland .....	_____
		other .....	_____

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8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

See Appendices A – Missouri Headwaters Vicinity Map

9. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

- (a) Permits: "County Sanitation Permit" – required for installation of new latrine at the Park entrance.

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Gallatin County Health Dept.	Sanitation Permit	September 2002

- (b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
FWP	\$275,000
National Park Service	\$80,000

- (c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO)	

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10. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:

The purpose of this document is to analyze the proposed capital and interpretive improvements for Missouri Headwaters State Park. The assessment will describe the preferred action and disclose and evaluate potential effects on the park and management practices.

The preferred action is to make capital and interpretive improvements to three project areas of Missouri Headwaters State Park. These areas include the park entrance, the Missouri River Confluence parking lot and the interpretive plaza located near the Park's picnic area.

The park entrance is deficient in providing the public direction and information regarding the park. Anticipated benefits from the proposed improvements are to draw park visitors off the highway, orient them through personal contact, and directional and interpretive signing or brochures that assist directing the visitor to points of interest within the park.

Park entrance improvements (see Appendix B) will consist of both capital and interpretive work. A new interpretive pavilion (See Appendix B1) will be constructed on the northeast side of the parking area. A new temporary and un-staffed contact station will be constructed and placed near the pavilion to provide visitors with park and local information such as available services. The park fee station will also be relocated to a point near the contact station. A concrete pathway will be poured that will lead visitors northward along the east side of the parking area past available picnic tables between the pavilion and a new latrine, (this will replace the old latrine located on the southeast side of the project area). The existing parking area will be reconfigured for safe vehicular movement and allow for adequate parking of recreational vehicles (RVs), school buses and passenger cars. Landscaping for the entrance will consist of planting trees, shrubs and sod near and around the interpretive pavilion and picnic tables. To maintain the vegetation, an underground irrigation system will be installed. A lighted flagpole and security light will be installed near the pavilion and contact station.

New interpretive elements at the entrance will replace the existing displays and be consolidated into the new interpretive pavilion. A Park directional sign will be placed on the north side of the south approach leading into the entrance area from the highway. (See Appendix F)

The Missouri River Confluence parking area (see Appendix C) will be redesigned, but not enlarged, to allow safe traffic flow and allow for adequate parking of RVs, school buses and passenger cars. Appendix C shows the area of the proposed roadway out-side of the existing barrier rocks and the area inside the existing barrier rocks that would be reclaimed. The schematic shows the area of the proposed new road located on the existing old roadbed. Use of the old roadbed will allow us to provide a way to accommodate buses and vehicles with trailers and reduce the net square footage of the parking area. An existing access road that leads from the south side of the parking lot will be closed and reclaimed and incorporated into the Park's trail system.

The parking area for the Madison and Jefferson Rivers Confluence, referenced by the U.S. Geological Service as the start of the Missouri River, will be a principle stopping point for the majority of the park visitors. The existing parking area provides no traffic flow or direction for vehicles. In the past, vehicle parking has been congested within the limited confines of the parking lot. The principal benefit of reconfiguring the parking area will be to allow vehicles to maneuver safely and reduce the impacts to the surrounding resources and private vehicles.

The new displays proposed to replace the existing interpretive displays will be designed with a low profile approach and blend with the surrounding landscape. They will be placed at the trailhead leading and on the bank near the Madison and Jefferson Rivers Confluence. (See Appendix F)

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The third and final project area is located at the interpretive plaza near the picnic area. The existing interpretive displays and pedestals found around the perimeter of the open-air shelters will be removed. New interpretive panels will be centralized under the center ridge of the pavilions. This action will benefit the view to the surrounding park scenery from this area. Again, the new interpretive displays will be installed in a low profile approach so as not to obstruct the view from the pavilions. (See Appendix F)

This project will serve as a legacy project for, not only visitors along the Lewis and Clark Trail, but for future generations of Montanans and people from across the nation. This project will aid in the preservation of a prized cultural and natural landmark. This project will balance the three aspects of the capital and interpretive improvements at Missouri Headwaters State Park; to preserve the natural, historical and cultural characteristics of the park, accommodate public use and enjoyment, as well as provide consistent and sustainable maintenance of the park facilities beyond the Bicentennial period.

The commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition has sparked national interest in the Corps of Discovery, and the number of visitors at Missouri Headwaters State Park is expected to increase during and beyond the Bicentennial (2003-2006). Missouri Headwaters State Park, which marks the confluence of the Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin Rivers to form the Missouri River, was a primary destination of the Expedition and will also be a principal destination for many visitors during the Bicentennial. The Park, with its particular historical and cultural significance, extensive and rich Native American history, and natural beauty, will provide an opportunity for visitors to learn about and better understand the Expedition and the surrounding area. It will be important to protect the natural and cultural features from intense visitor use. Increasing visitor use may degrade the historic atmosphere and character of the park as well as the existing park facilities. This project will help direct visitor activity and limit impact on the Park's resources.

#### 11. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:

State Historical Preservation Office  
FWP, Design and Construction Bureau  
FWP, Parks Division, Wildlife Division, Fisheries Division  
Montana Department of Transportation  
Gallatin County Sanitarian

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## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### 1. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

#### A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			See 1b. below
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other: None						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

1b.: The entrance area of the park has been historically and routinely disturbed (Appendix B). The east edge of the vegetative island, as described in the entrance landscape schematic, which consists of Upland vegetative types will be reconfigured to define the desired traffic flow.

Modification of the Missouri River Confluence parking area would be confined principally within the existing parking boundaries (Appendix C). The old highway road base, which is located between the existing parking area and Highway 286 will provide the needed area to allow the proper traffic flow for RVs, school and tour buses. A vegetative island would be created in exchange for the land used (old road bed) for the new road modification. An existing access road that leads south from the parking area would be closed and integrated into the pedestrian trail system.

The reconfiguration of both the park entrance and Missouri River Confluence parking areas will focus on the safe traffic flow through these two areas. The objective is to reduce congestion by recreational vehicles (RVs), school and commercial buses and passenger vehicles.

The new park entrance interpretive pavilion (See Appendix B1) will be located in an area north of the parking lot, an that area of non-hydraulic Upland soils as well. The new proposed pavilion is a circular, open-air structure of approximately 26 feet by 26 feet. It will be slightly elevated, requiring an overlay of soil. Native vegetation will be planted around the new structure to landscape and blend the structure into the surrounding area.

Impacts resulting from construction of the proposed new pavilion and in the vegetative island of the park entrance parking lot will affect a ~~combined total~~ combined total area of 0.38 acres. The pavilion construction will encompass 0.12 acre and the parking area island impact would be 0.26 acre. The described project areas are located on Upland soils and avoid the existing near by wetland.

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2. <u>AIR</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X			See 2a. below
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ***For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other: None						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

2a.: Construction will be conducted during the fall season, with equipment emissions at the park entrance and Confluence-parking areas will be temporary in nature. Emissions from heavy construction equipment would be concentrated at both the park entrance and Confluence parking area for a period of a month and a half (September through October). During this period there is normally low visitation at the park and there is expected to be minimal impact to the public.

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3. <b>WATER</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. *Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: None						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

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4. <b>VEGETATION</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: None		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

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<b>** 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u></b> <b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: None						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

## **B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

<b>6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u></b> <b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			See 1a. below
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: None						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

6a.: Construction will be conducted during the fall season, with noise at the park entrance and Confluence parking areas being temporary in nature. Noise from heavy construction equipment would be concentrated at both the park entrance and Confluence parking area for a period of a month and a half (September through October). During this period of normally low visitation, impact to park visitors would be expected to be minimal.

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<b>7. <u>LAND USE</u></b>  <b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: None						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

<b>8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u></b>  <b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: None						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

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9. <b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X			See 9e. below
f. Other: None						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

9e. The reconfiguration of both the park entrance and Missouri River Confluence parking areas as described under Land Resources on page 7, will focus on the safe traffic flow through these two areas. The objective is to limit congestion between recreational vehicles (RVs), school and commercial buses and passenger vehicles.

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10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
e. **Define projected revenue sources			X			See 10e. below
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.		X				See 10f. below
g. Other: None						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

10e: Revenues to implement this proposed project would come from Lewis and Clark Bicentennial funding authorized by the Montana Legislature in the amount of \$275,000 and National Park Service funding provided through the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Grant Program in the amount of \$80,000.

10f.: No significant increases in costs above the Park's current annual maintenance or operations budget of \$6,000 would be expected upon implementation of this project.

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<b>** 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X			See 11c. below
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: None						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

11C: The proposal would have a positive impact on the quality and quantity of recreational / tourism opportunities and setting (see attached Tourism Report – Appendix G).

<b>12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: <u>None</u>						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

The proposed project will have no impact on historic or cultural resources (see attached clearance letter from State Historic Preservation Office – Appendix H).

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## SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u>  Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- \* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- \*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- \*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- \*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## **PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW, CONTINUED**

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

### **Alternative A: No Action**

Under this alternative no efforts would be made to update existing interpretive displays or park facilities. If this action ~~is~~were taken an opportunity to provide for public services and education would be missed. Additional interpretive handouts, brochures, could be distributed at the park, but would only serve to overwhelm and confuse the park visitors and would not serve to enhance their enjoyment of the Park's resources. This action would rely on outdated historical information to relate the cultural and natural stories found at the park.

This alternative additionally would require the replacement of the existing deteriorated signs with similar materials and information. This alternative would not meet the objectives described in the Missouri Headwaters State Park Interpretive Concept Plan. The functions of the existing interpretive programming and park facilities would remain as they are today. This alternative will not address the deficiencies that now exist at the park entrance, Confluence parking area or the picnic area interpretive plaza. Alternative B would be less costly than the preferred alternative, however conflicts will continue and increase due to additional visitation expected during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, resulting in elevated impacts to the park overall.

### **Preferred Alternative B: Proposed action for interpretive improvements and capital enhancements.**

This alternative includes the construction and installation of new interpretive displays and facilities at the park entrance, Confluence parking area and interpretive plaza as described on pages 5 and 6. This alternative is based on input from the two-year public involvement process in the development of the Missouri Headwaters State Park Interpretive Concept Plan. The public expressed their objectives and desires to retain the natural characteristics of the Park and at the same time convey the rich history of the area. A great number of people will be drawn to the Headwaters area. With the revised interpretive approach and updated facilities, FWP can effectively act to limit impacts and preserve the Park's natural and cultural resources in a safe, controlled manner.

All construction and rehabilitation work would be conducted by private landscape consultants and private contractors under State of Montana and FWP guidelines and regulations with work monitored by FWP, Design and Construction Bureau staff.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

The consulting firm of Confluence Consulting, Inc. of Bozeman, Montana, conducted a wetlands assessment of the park entrance. The results of their assessment concluded that the proposed project area at the park entrance would not impact wetlands in the vicinity (see Appendix D for consultant assessment).

### **PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

FWP proposes to correct interpretive and facility deficiencies that currently exist at Missouri Headwaters State Park with this proposed project. With the proposed modifications to the Park's infrastructure FWP can meet or exceed several of the objectives outlined in the Park's interpretive concept plan. The Parks Program Policies (*2020 Vision for Montana State Parks System Plan*) specifies that "recreational development will be based on public demand, in balance with resource protection. Protecting sensitive and rare resources will take precedence over recreation use. However, often a small portion of a resource base must be utilized to allow the public to appreciate and enjoy the rest of the site."

In 1993 the Montana Legislature enacted the Primitive Parks Act and designated Missouri Headwaters State Park as a Primitive Park. This designation placed a number restrictions limiting facility construction. Missouri Headwaters State Park is a National Landmark and is one of the principal sites along the Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail. In preparation for the Bicentennial commemoration of the Corps of Discovery's journey across the continent a number of park elements were identified to be in need of enhancement, modification or replacement. Under the restrictions imposed by the Primitive Parks Legislation, actions to rectify these problems could not be addressed.

The 2001 Montana Legislature recognized the importance of Missouri Headwaters as a principal Lewis and Clark Bicentennial site and passed enabling legislation, Senate Bill 286, this legislation ~~amends~~amends the Primitive Parks Act and permits the proposed improvements described above. (See Appendix E for text of SB 286). Under SB 286 specific components of the park can be modified including the park entrance, the Missouri River Confluence parking area and the interpretive plaza at the picnic area. As part of FWP's compliance with House Bill 495, FWP examined the capacity of the park for development and enhancement of the existing facilities (see Appendix I). Making the proposed modifications to these three project areas address the overall preservation of the Park's natural and cultural values as well as the long-range maintenance objectives. In addition, the Missouri Headwaters State Park Interpretive Concept Plan, a document developed during two years of public involvement will also assist in assuring that the characteristics most valued and enjoyed by the public at the park will not be impacted by this proposed project.

This analysis did not reveal any significant impacts to the human or physical environment. Minor impacts will occur to the Upland vegetation during proposed construction activities.

One Threatened and Endangered Species, **Ute Ladies' – tresses**, has been identified at Missouri Headwaters State Park, however the location of this species is found in an area separate from the proposed project areas and will not be impacted.

A cultural resource inventory was conducted in March of 2000 by Montana Power Company, now Northwest Energy, for the purpose of burying a power line along Highway 286 and through Missouri Headwaters State Park. In the course of the inventory a vegetative anomaly was identified on the south end of the vegetative island at the park entrance. This anomaly consists of vegetative species that would not be expected in this area under natural conditions and are likely the result of influences caused by the existence of a ~~foudation~~ foundation from a past structure. The anomaly was described as being located at a point near the old Feistner Ranch headquarters and maybe associated with one of the two historic structures. The area of the proposed construction will not involve or impact to this area.

No unique cultural, geological, or physical features will be affected. The proposed improvements will enhance visitors' educational and recreational opportunities. The site improvements and interpretive programming corresponds with the State Parks mandate to "conserve the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific and recreational resources of the state and provide for their use and enjoyment, thereby contributing to the cultural, recreational and economic life of the people and their health".

## **PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION**

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required (YES/NO)? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this project. Analysis of the proposal reflects no significant impacts to the overall park character or the natural or human environment. Proposed improvements and facility construction will take place within the limits of existing facilities or on previously disturbed ground. The proposed project will have no impact to threatened or endangered species.

2. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

Public announcements through local newspapers will be made in accordance to MEPA guidelines. Legal notices will be printed in the newspapers listed below on the proposal. The draft EA will be sent to FWP Region Three's standard distribution list.

Newspapers:           Bozeman Daily Chronicle  
                              Helena Independent-Record  
                              Three Forks Herald

State Electronic Bulletin Board

3. Duration of comment period, if any.

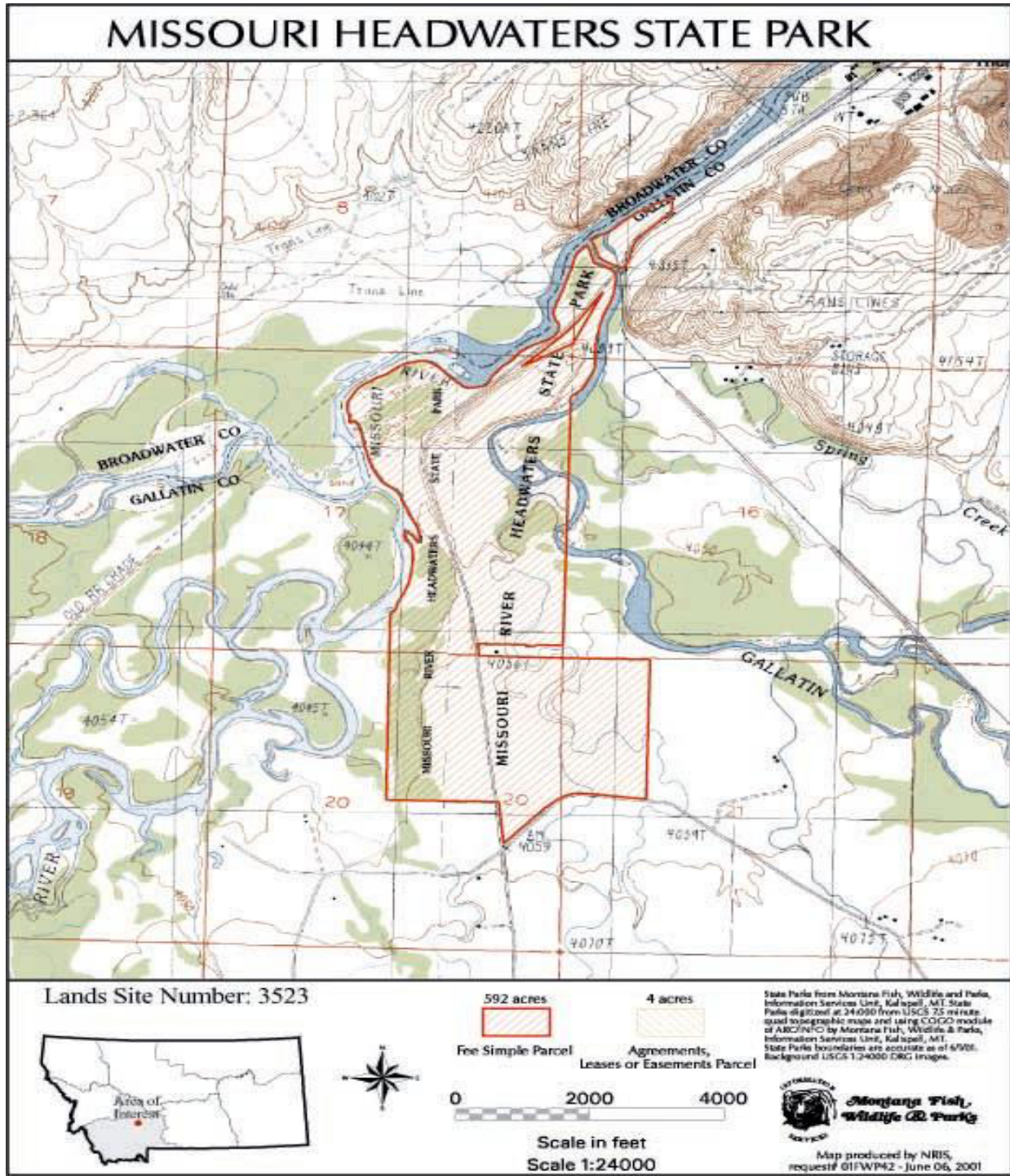
A thirty-day public comment period running from July 29, 2002 to 5 PM, August 27, 2002.

4. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

Ray Heagney, Manager  
Missouri Headwaters State Park  
1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
406-994-6934  
rheagney@montana.edu

## APPENDIX A

### Missouri Headwaters State Park Vicinity Map



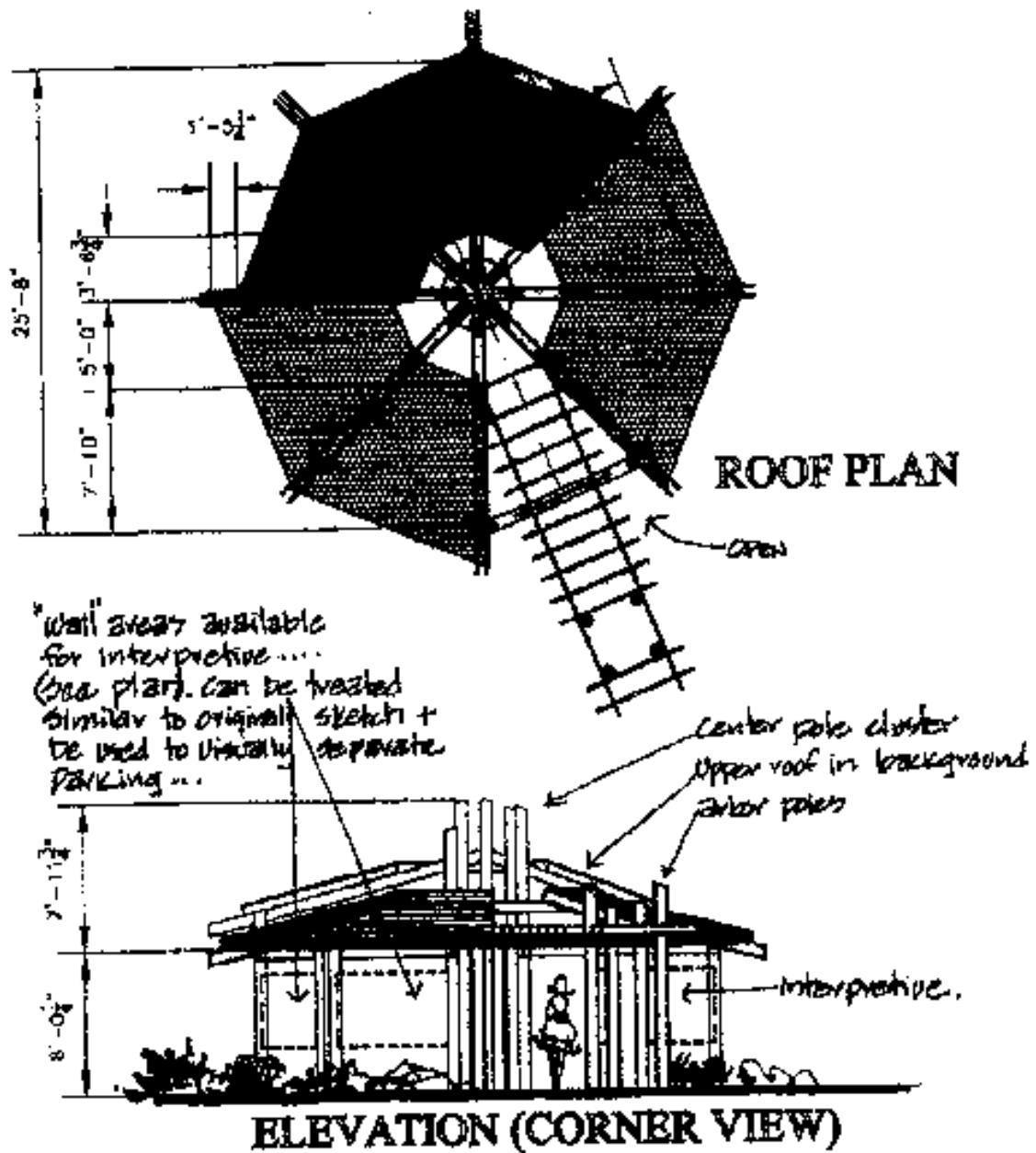
## **APPENDIX B**

### **Missouri Headwaters State Park Entrance Schematic**



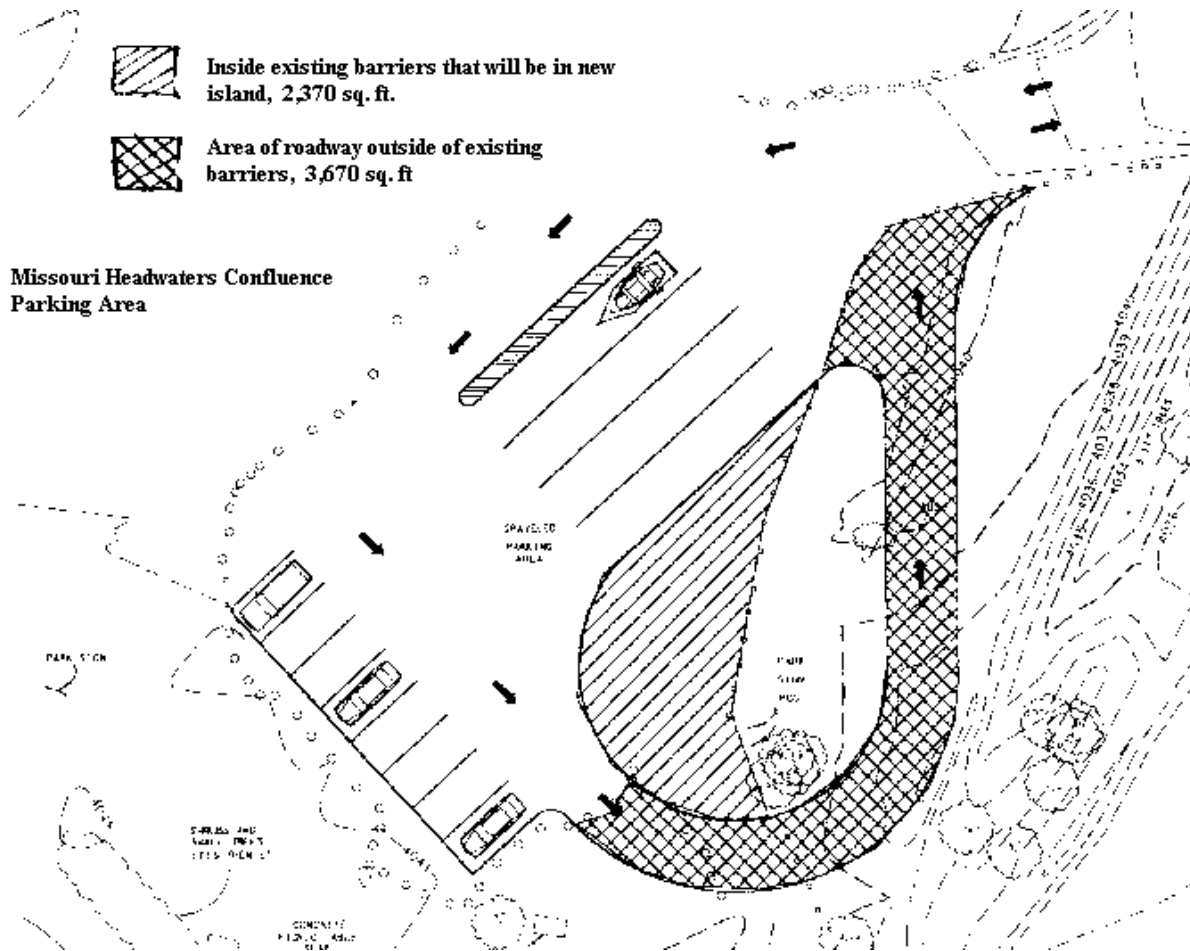
## APPENDIX B1

### Missouri Headwaters State Park Entrance Interpretive Pavilion Schematic



## APPENDIX C

### Missouri Headwaters State Park Confluence Parking Schematic



## **APPENDIX D**

### **Confluence Consulting, Inc. Wetlands Assessment**

JUL 10 2002



**CONFLUENCE**  
consulting incorporated

July 8, 2002

Mr. Mike Heagney  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Region 3 Headquarters  
1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup>  
Bozeman, MT 59718

Dear Mike,

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 I visited the Missouri River Headwaters State Park with you to assess the existence and extent of wetlands within the path of proposed expansions of visitor facilities at the entrance station. During this visit you pointed out the approximate locations and extents of:

1. A proposed visitor gazebo/bungalow,
2. A proposed visitor restroom,
3. and proposed parking lot extensions.

A soil pit was excavated at a representative location in the area planned for construction (Attachment A). Based on this test pit, the area proposed for construction does not meet the Code of Federal Register guidance and technical criteria for wetlands or Waters of the U.S. as contained within the 1987 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Wetland Delineation Manual and, therefore, does not fall under the jurisdiction of the COE. In fact, the jurisdictional wetlands that do exist on the site are all greater than 20 feet away from the proposed construction activities. Consequently, a COE 404 permit should not be required for your project.

As you will recall, I pointed out the approximate locations of the wetland boundaries during our July 2<sup>nd</sup> site visit. If construction plans change to include impacts to these wetlands, you should contact me to conduct another preliminary site investigation to determine whether a wetland delineation and COE 404 permit application will be necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist you with this project. Please call me at (406) 585-9500 with any questions or if we can provide you with any further assistance. We look forward to working with you again and to future opportunities for collaboration with FWP. Thank you for your business!

Best regards,

Ron LeCain  
Wetland Specialist  
Confluence Consulting, Inc.

406-585-9500  
P.O. Box 1133  
211 N. Grand, Suite E  
Bozeman, MT 59711-1133

**DATA FORM**  
**ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION**  
 (1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

Project/Site: <u>Headwaters State Park</u>		Date: <u>2 July 02</u>
Applicant/Owner: <u>MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks</u>		County: <u>Gallatin</u>
Investigator: <u>Belain, Conduff, Inc.</u>		State: <u>MT</u>
Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site?	Yes No	Community ID: <u>HOJU</u>
Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation)?	Yes No	Transect ID: <u>UP</u>
Is the area a potential Problem Area?	Yes No	Plot ID: <u>SP-1</u>
(If needed, explain on reverse.)		

**VEGETATION**

Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator	Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator
1. <u>Hordeum jubatum</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>FAC</u>	9. _____	_____	_____
2. <u>Melilotus officinalis</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>FACU</u>	10. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	11. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	12. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	13. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	14. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____	15. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____	16. _____	_____	_____

Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW or FAC (excluding FAC): \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: 100% upland vegetation.

**HYDROLOGY**

___ Recorded Data (Describe in Remarks): ___ Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge ___ Aerial Photographs ___ Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Recorded Data Available	<b>Wetland Hydrology Indicators:</b> <b>Primary Indicators:</b> ___ Inundated ___ Saturated in Upper 12 inches ___ Water Marks ___ Drift Lines ___ Sediment Deposits ___ Drainage Patterns in Wetlands <b>Secondary Indicators (2 or more required):</b> ___ Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 inches ___ Water-Stained Leaves ___ Local Soil Survey Data ___ FAC-Neutral Test ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)
<b>Field Observations:</b> Depth of Surface Water: <u>NA</u> (in.) Depth to Free Water in Pit: <u>NA</u> (in.) Depth to Saturated Soil: <u>NA</u> (in.)	
Remarks: <u>Topographic high, no evidence of wetland hydrology.</u>	

# SOILS

Map Unit Name (Series and Phase): _____		Drainage Class: _____	
Taxonomy (Subgroup): _____		Field Observations Confirm Mapped Type? Yes No	

Profile Description: Depth (Inches)	Horizon	Matrix Color (Munsell Moist)	Mottle Colors (Munsell Moist)	Mottle Abundance/ Size/Contrast	Texture, Concretions, Structures, etc.
0-16	A	10YR3/2	—	—	Sandy loam

Hydric Soil Indicators:

<input type="checkbox"/> Histosol <input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon <input type="checkbox"/> Sulfidic Odor <input type="checkbox"/> Aquic Moisture Regime <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Gleyed or Low-Chroma Colors	<input type="checkbox"/> Concretions <input type="checkbox"/> High Organic Content in Surface Layer in Sandy Soils <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on Local Hydric Soils List <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on National Hydric Soils List <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)
---	--

Remarks: Floodplain soil with poor development.  
No hydric indicators.

# WETLAND DETERMINATION

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> (Circle)	(Circle)
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> (Circle)	
Hydric Soils Present?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> (Circle)	Is this Sampling Point Within a Wetland? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> (Circle)

Remarks: This area is proposed for expansion of visitor facilities. Wetlands exist greater than 50' from the limits of development

Approved by HQUSACE 3/92

## APPENDIX E

### SENATE BILL NO. 286

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS ~~AT THE ENTRANCE~~ TO HEADWATERS STATE PARK IN ANTICIPATION OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK BICENTENNIAL; AMENDING SECTION 23-1-117, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

WHEREAS, the bicentennial celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 2005 will make Montana a national destination; and

WHEREAS, Headwaters State Park, which marks the confluence of the Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin Rivers into the Missouri River, was a primary destination of the Expedition and will also be a destination of many visitors during the bicentennial; and

WHEREAS, Headwaters State Park, with its particular historical and cultural significance, extensive and rich Native American history, and natural beauty, will provide an opportunity for visitors to engage in the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in a setting that remains mostly primitive, allowing people to see the area in much the same way that it was viewed by the Corps of Discovery; and

WHEREAS, some LIMITED modifications to the park ~~entrance~~ are advisable for purposes of public education, safety, and convenience, given the anticipated influx of visitors, while still retaining the primitive character of the remainder of the park in keeping with the spirit of the Montana Primitive Parks Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 23-1-117, MCA, is amended to read:

**"23-1-117. Limit on development of primitive parks.** (1) ~~As of October 1, 1993~~ Except as permitted in Headwaters state park for the limited purposes provided in subsection SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (4) THROUGH (5), the only development allowed in primitive parks designated in 23-1-116 is:

- (a) necessary improvements required to meet minimum public health standards regarding sanitation, which may include necessary access to outhouses, vaults, and water;
- (b) improvements necessary to ensure the safe public use of existing boat ramps;
- (c) addition of gravel to existing unpaved roads and the resurfacing of paved roads when necessary to ensure safe public access;
- (d) establishment of new hiking trails or improvement of existing hiking trails; and

(e) installation of minimal signage indicating that the park is a designated primitive park in which development has been limited and encouraging the public to help in maintaining the Park's primitive character by packing out trash.

(2) The following development of designated primitive parks is prohibited:

(a) installation of electric lines or facilities, except when necessary to comply with subsection (1)(a);

(b) installation of recreational vehicle sanitary dumpsites where they do not presently exist; and

(c) creation of new roads and paving of existing but previously unpaved roads.

(3) The orientation area at the main park entrance to Headwaters state park may be rebuilt and expanded in order to prepare for and manage increased visitation expected for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, to include:

\_\_\_ (a) an unstaffed information kiosk;

\_\_\_ (b) sanitation facilities;

\_\_\_ (c) additional parking; and

\_\_\_ (d) additional signage to inform visitors about the history and uses of the park and services in the surrounding area.

(4) THE EXISTING PARKING AREA AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE MADISON AND JEFFERSON RIVERS IN THE HEADWATERS STATE PARK MAY BE IMPROVED, BUT NOT ENLARGED, USING PARKING FEATURES THAT CAN BE REMOVED. LOW-PROFILE INTERPRETIVE SIGNS MAY BE INSTALLED IN PLACE OF EXISTING SIGNAGE.

(5) INTERPRETIVE AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE MAY BE INSTALLED AT HEADWATERS STATE PARK TO EDUCATE VISITORS ABOUT THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE AND TO ORIENT VISITORS TO THE FEATURES OF THE PARK AND THE SURROUNDING AREA."

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Termination. [This act] terminates December 31, 2003.

## **APPENDIX F**

### **Missouri Headwaters State Park Conceptual Interpretive Plan**

The goal of this plan is to reconcile the interpretive plan, the needs of the park itself and the requirements of the Primitive Parks Act of 1993 and its amendment. It is also an outline of a way to enhance interpretation at the site beyond the physical limitations of the Primitive Parks Act while adhering to its guidelines and spirit. The focus of this document is more on form than on content--meaning that it focuses on the method of delivery of information rather than the information itself. Specifics of theme and storylines will be dealt with as part of the development phase.

FWP has chosen to focus on three main areas for interpretation: the park entrance, the Confluence area and the interpretive plaza. The goal is to confine visual interpretation (signs) to these three areas, and reduce or eliminate it completely from the rest of the park. Reasons for doing this are twofold:

1. The entrance and interpretive plaza are already "disturbed" areas. New signage will enhance these areas visually rather than create a visual distraction. The Confluence area is the one area of the park that is, despite its importance, under-interpreted.
2. The law mandates in principal, if not in actual fact, that an attempt is made to return what portions of the park that FWP can to a primitive state. FWP can do this without sacrificing content for those visitors who come seeking it, and expand current levels of interpretation while reducing visual clutter by utilizing creative solutions.

To achieve this goal FWP will implement a three-pronged plan:

1. Interpretive signage
2. Self guided, in-depth tour, keyed to markers
3. Audio tour

This "menu" will allow visitors to choose their park experience: the interpretive signage is for the visitor who wants a quick overview of the park and the local history, - families on road trips who probably will spend an hour or two in the park and then be off to see other sights. The self-guided tour is aimed at people who want to spend more time exploring the park and learning more about its human and natural history, these would include hikers, campers, birders, and amateur naturalists and historians. The audio tour is addressed to the same groups but its emphasis is focused much more on cultural history and "local color". It is also a way of reaching those visitors who are sight and motion impaired.

## **INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE**

### **PARK ENTRANCE**

The entrance to the park is a focal point. The new interpretive pavilion will facilitate the removal of all existing signs in the area and open up a clear, unobstructed panorama of the park. It will give the entrance a much-needed focal point and give FWP a chance to restore the view to a more primitive/natural state. The entrance will be an oasis of information: clean, tidy and ordered, enhancing the natural beauty of the site rather than detract from it.

The functions that need to be addressed within this space are:

- Park orientation (a map)
- Park regulations
- Notice board
- Orientation to other nearby attractions/activities
- Fee collection

Interpretive topics FWP will address at this location are:

- Interpretive introduction/overview
- The Second Gallatin City
- Lewis and Clark (introduction)

## CONFLUENCE AREA

The Primitive Parks Act amendment confines FWP to three interpretive elements at this area. Two signs will be placed on either side of the path that leads to the actual river confluence near the parking lot. These signs will be similar, although not mirror images of each other, and their appearance will be somewhat formal creating a passage or portal that must be passed through to reach the confluence itself. They will be low, angled signs, surrounded by native stone bedded in the earth. This stone is to be placed in such a way as to emulate natural outcroppings, augmented with native plantings. The information needs to be there but the physical presence wants to be of nature. The rocks and plantings should hide the mounting hardware completely, and from the vantage point of the confluence hide the signs themselves. Adjacent to each sign and placed in a natural manner, should be a smaller stone set in at seating height.

The topics these signs will address are:

### **Lewis and Clark at the Headwaters The River**

At the actual headwaters (near where the current small sign is at the Madison and Jefferson Rivers Confluence) will be a larger, low stone monument/outcropping, also landscaped with native vegetation. Stones placed around it at sitting height provide perches to encourage rest and contemplation. This arrangement wants to have the appearance of nature, slightly enhanced. Carved in the surface of the large stone would be one simple phrase that relates directly to the river. It could be something from Jefferson's instructions to Lewis, something or from native folklore.

There would be no other visible interpretation at the actual Confluence. The goal here is to create a place for introspection and contemplation and to let the power of the site itself resonate. To discuss a fort that used to exist here, or any other topic, simply belittles the importance of the location. This is the Umphalos, or navel, of the park and it needs to be allowed to assert its presence without a lot of words and pictures. What could be said here (and there is plenty) would never be enough to satisfy, the best FWP can do without destroying the pristine nature of the site, is attempt to sanctify.

## **INTERPRETIVE PLAZA**

The Interpretive plaza needs better interpretation presented in a format that exhibits a bit more sensitivity to the structures themselves. The current layout leaves one confused as to where to start and where to end. It also makes it difficult if not impossible to sit and enjoy the view from this sheltered location without the visual impediment of words and pictures. The current interpretation appears to have no through-line or focus to its message, but feels like a random collection of ideas—one thought does not lead to another. The goal here is to rearrange the sign locations and relate them more to the structure, include more seating, and thoroughly overhaul the interpretive content.

In the larger of the two shelters this means removing the signs from the perimeter of the building and replacing them with benches. The signs would be arranged down the center of the structure between the support posts, angled and back-to-back. This eliminates the current issue of visitors arriving at the plaza and being confronted with mounting hardware. Support posts would be made of timber to blend with the architecture, and space will be left between signs to allow for circulation around and through the structure. The topic to be addressed here is cultural history--beginning with a timeline and focusing in further on specific topics as necessary. The visitor should be able to follow this sequentially, down one side of the shelter and up the other.

The second, smaller shelter will be dedicated to natural history—native plants, native animals and birds and geology. Again the main arrangement will be down the center of the structure with benches placed on the riverside for viewing. There will also be an arrangement of signs along the bluff side where they do not obstruct the view.

## APPENDIX G

### Tourism Report

JUL 10 2002

#### MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB 495 TOURISM REPORT

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development  
Montana Promotion Division  
Department of Commerce  
1424 9th Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name :

#### Missouri Headwaters State Park Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Enhancement Project

##### **Project Description**

The bicentennial celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 2005 will make Montana a national destination; and Headwaters State Park, which marks the confluence of the Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin Rivers into the Missouri River, was a primary destination of the Expedition and will also be a destination of many visitors during the bicentennial; and Headwaters State Park, with its particular historical and cultural significance, extensive and rich Native American history, and natural beauty, will provide an opportunity for visitors to engage in the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in a setting that remains mostly primitive, allowing people to see the area in much the same way that it was viewed by the Corps of Discovery; and some limited modifications to the park are advisable for purposes of public education, safety, and convenience, given the anticipated influx of visitors, while still retaining the primitive character of the remainder of the park in keeping with the spirit of the Montana Primitive Parks Act.

Under enabling legislation by the 2001 Montana Legislature in the form of SENATE BILL NO. 236, the following areas of Missouri Headwaters will receive interpretive and capital improvements to meet those objectives described in the Missouri Headwaters State Park Interpretive Plan. The park entrance will be the principle focus and will receive the majority of the funding for capital improvements. The proposed improvements for the entrance will consist of reconfiguring the parking area, construction of an interpretive pavilion, upgrade of latrine facilities, contact station/ information kiosk and installation of new interpretive displays. (See attached schematic)

The confluence of the Madison and Jefferson Rivers, referenced by the U.S. Geological Service as the start of the Missouri River, will be a principle stopping point for visitors within the park. The existing parking area for the confluence provides no traffic flow or direction for vehicles. In the past visitors with large RVs or School buses have conflicted with other passenger vehicles in maneuvering safely within the confines of the parking lot. The proposed action for this area is to reconfigure the parking lot to define specific RV, Bus and passenger vehicle parking. For the Confluence parking area, our concern is to allow RVs, school buses and passenger vehicles to maneuver safely within the boundary of the existing parking lot. Included are two draft designs for this area. The first schematic shows the area of the proposed roadway out side of the existing barrier rocks and the area inside the existing barrier rocks that would be reclaimed. The other schematic shows the area of the proposed new road that is located on the existing old roadbed. Use of the old roadbed will allow us to provide a way to accommodate buses and vehicles with

trailers and reduce the net square footage of the parking area. In both Confluence parking area scenarios, an existing access road that leads from the south side of the parking lot would be closed and reclaimed and incorporated with the park's trail system.

New interpretive displays proposed for the confluence area will replace the existing panels (3), now located in the parking area, trail leading to the confluence and the panel & pedestal located at the confluence viewing area. The new displays will be designed with a low profile approach and placed to blend with the surrounding landscape.

The third and final area of proposed enhancement is the interpretive plaza located in the picnic area of the park. The proposed action for this area focuses on updating the interpretive displays and modifying the location of the interpretive panels in the plaza. Again the interpretive panels will take a low profile approach, centralizing the panels under the plaza roofs. Finally, the conceptual interpretive plan addresses the interpretive actions proposed under this assessment. (See conceptual interpretive plan attached)

1.	Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy? —
<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
If YES, briefly describe:	
As described, the project appears to provide benefits for the public visiting and utilizing the resources of Headwaters State Park.	
2.	Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?
<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
If YES, briefly describe:	
As described, the project appears to improve the quality of the visitors opportunities and increase the quantity.	

Signature Vicki B. Jarnberg Date July 9, 2002

## APPENDIX H

### State Historic Preservation Office Review

Friday, July 26, 2002

RAY HEAGNEY  
MT FWP  
1400 S. 19<sup>TH</sup> AVE  
BOZEMAN MT 59718

RE: Headwaters State Park and National Historic Landmark  
Pre-Draft EA - L&C      Bicentennial Capital and Interpretive  
Improvements

Dear Ray:

Based on the information provided in the EA, and the additional information concerning previous disturbance at the proposed location of the new latrine you provided on the phone, we are happy to concur that negative impacts to historical/cultural values are not anticipated. We believe that the proposed capital improvements will have beneficial affects, and while the interpretive text and other details have yet to be developed it is likely that body of work will also have beneficial effects to this nationally significant Landmark.

Thank you for requesting our comments.

Sincerely,

Stan Wilmoth, Ph.D.  
State Archaeologist  
State Historic Preservation Officer, acting

File NR  
FWP 2002

## APPENDIX I

### HB 495 Project Qualification Checklist

#### PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST HB 495

Date July 26, 2002 Person Reviewing Ray Heagney:

Project Location: Missouri Headwaters State Park

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Capital and Interpretive Improvements.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under HB 495 rules. (Please check ☒ all that apply and comment as necessary.) Capital Construction projects - Prepared by D & C; Force Account Projects - Prepared by Region.

☒ A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?  
Comments: A new concrete sidewalk will be constructed along the east edge of the Park entrance parking area.

☒ B. New building construction (buildings < 100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?  
Comments: A new interpretive pavilion and contact station will be constructed near the northeast edge of the Park entrance parking area.

☐ C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?

Comments: See attached SHPO review - Appendix H

☐ H. Any new above ground utility lines?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE ARE CHECKED, HH 495 RULES APPLY TO THIS PROPOSED WORK AND SHOULD BE DOCUMENTED ON THE NEPA/HP495 CHECKLIST. Refer to NEPA/HP495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.

cc: Park Managers, Region \_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Redmond- Paul Valle  
Mary Ellen McDonald Kirsten Shelton  
Project File

3/92